

GILES' GARAGE LEHI MOTOR COMPANY HUTCH'S

Constructed: 1915

Address: 50 East Main

Present owner: Bret/Harold/Marie Hutchings

Dennis Giles constructed the building at 50 East Main in 1915. He opened it under the name, "Giles Garage" to take advantage of increasing business in automotive repair. In May of 1919 a fire swept through 50 East Main which completely gutted the place. After rebuilding it later that summer Giles leased the building to N.O. Malan. Malan, a jack-of-all-trades, in addition to owning a confectionery was also our local undertaker.

In 1921 Malan moved his automotive interests into the former Russon Garage at Center and State. Giles Garage downtown then came under the new management of Sylvester Broadbent (service) and Steve Zimmerman (sales), and was renamed *Lehi Motor Company*. A 1922 Sanborn Map of the building shows a gasoline pump (with an 800-gallon storage tank) immediately in front of the structure. A 1925 ad for this Ford dealership in the *Lehi Sun* lists the following models: Runabout, Touring Car, Coupe, Tudor Sedan, and Fordor Sedan. Prices ranged from \$260 to \$660--about what a set of tires costs today.

Lehi Motor eventually came under the successive management of Carlton Wilson, Harry Demerest, and Walter Strange. In 1930 Giles leased the building to the Bennett-Culmer Company then in 1942 sold it to Arthur Glover, a local mechanic. Glover maintained a garage on the premises for years before leasing to H.R. Putnam in 1956. Harold and Marie Hutchings bought the place in August 1960.

Hutch's is one of those rare Lehi businesses that has weathered the storms of commercial uncertainty for decades. The enterprise has been owned by the Harold and Marie Hutchings family since 1953, although it has been situated at three separate locations.

When Harold returned from World War II he assumed management of the Lone Eagle Trading Post, which had been established at 126 West Main by Wattie Watkins and his wife Eunice in 1943.

Hutch and his wife Marie bought the Watkin's interest in 1953 and changed the name to *Hutch's Lone eagle Trading Post*. An avid sportsman, Hutch added sporting goods, gun smithing, and small appliances to the business. In 1955 the store was moved to the old Racker Building at 189 West Main (where most recently had been the Gateway Furniture Store).

In their much larger quarters, Hutch's added washers, dryers, refrigerators, televisions, and stereos. Their sporting goods line was expanded, and a hunter's lounge was added for sportsmen to gather and relate their hunting and fishing escapes. After Harold and Marie purchased the old Lehi Motor building at 50 East Main in 1960 they began extensive remodeling. The new quarters were occupied in March 1961. The Lone Eagle Trading Post moniker was then dropped and they have since been Hutch's.

Hutch's continued their popular sporting goods department and appliance lines including Philco, RCA, Whirlpool, and RCA Victor. They also added such new features as hardware, paints, jewelry, a record bar, and construction model kits.

In 1980 Bret Hutchings assumed management of the store, although his father continued to provide service and his mother assisted with sales and bookkeeping. Young Hutchings discontinued the hardware business and focused on Whirlpool washers, dryers, and refrigerators, and Sylvania televisions. He received 1985 and 1988 sales awards for the big 52-inch screens. In addition he carries Sylvania VCR's, and camcorders, Litton microwave ovens, and Hoover and Eureka vacuums. "We don't carry the lines of all manufacturers, he claims, "we just carry the best."